(d) The concerned State Governments and Railways Authorities are advised from time to time to step up vigil and strengthen security arrangements so as to defeat the plants of naxalites and prevent incidents of violence likely to be committed by them.

Inclusion of DGHC in Sixth Schedule

960. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that triparti MoU has been signed leading to inclusion of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) will the new measure allow DGHS greater autonomy and funds for development; and

(c) whether it will also pave the way for elections to the Council held up for so long?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) An "In Principle Memorandum of Settlement" has been signed on 06.12.2005 between the Government of India, Government of West Bengal and Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) for creating a new Council for the hill areas of Darjeeling District under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, to replace the existing DGHC.

(b) The new Council to be set up in pursuance of the aforesaid Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) will have greater autonomy as provided in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The MoS also envisages devolution of more development funds to the new Council.

(c) The MoS *inter alia* envisages holding of elections to the DGHC and to the Panchayat bodies in the DGHC areas in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution/existing laws of the Central/State Governments, till such time the process of the Constitution amendment is carried out, and the new Council is put in place.